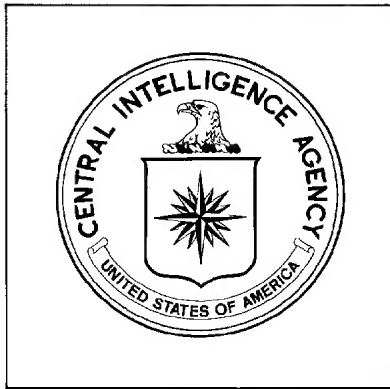


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STAFF NOTES:

Soviet Union Eastern Europe

State Department review completed

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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE



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Poland: More Cops and Meat in Krakow

The US consulate in Krakow reports that over the past week more meat has appeared in the city's stores and that there are greatly increased numbers of police on the streets. Both steps were taken as a result of grumbling from the industrial suburbs and rumors of possible public protests. The extra meat was evidently intended for export, with some of it carrying German markings. The consulate says that the local rumor mill has quieted down somewhat now that meat supplies have improved.

Similar measures are probably being taken in other Polish cities. The regime will try to meet public demands, but at the same time it is clearly signaling that public disturbances will not be tolerated. The drawdown on goods intended for export--which has been officially announced--will undoubtedly put further burdens on Poland's already serious balance-of-payments problems. Moreover, the Polish people will be quick to recognize the stop-gap nature of such steps, and are likely to keep up the pressure for more consumer goods.



October 6, 1975

Bulgarians on the Move Again

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mladenov will visit Yugoslavia in mid-November, according to the Yugoslav counselor in Sofia. The Bulgarians apparently proposed the visit during Zhivkov's talks with Tito in Helsinki.

The Yugoslav counselor, who described the present state of relations between Belgrade and Sofia as "neither warm nor frosty," was skeptical that any major agreements would be reached during the visit. Major irritants, as seen by Yugoslavia, are the long-standing dispute with Bulgaria over Macedonia and persistent references in the Bulgarian press to the role of the Soviet Union and Bulgaria in the liberation of Yugoslavia.

Mladenov will certainly bring up Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis' call for a meeting of the Balkan states this fall. Belgrade has accepted Athens' invitation with misgivings because it is concerned about Moscow's leverage over Bulgaria. Mladenov will have his work cut out for him in trying to convince the Yugoslavs to the contrary.

For Sofia, the visit completes a series of missions aimed at gaining a larger Bulgarian role in inter-Balkan affairs. Zhivkov entertained Greek Premier Karamanlis this summer, visited Romania in July, and held discussions in the same month with Turkish leader Demirel. Mladenov's visit to Belgrade will complete his circuit of Bulgaria's neighbors.

October 6, 1975

Soviet Party Secretary Visits Romania

Soviet party secretary Konstantin Katushev made a sudden visit to Romania late last week, probably to talk over a growing number of differences between Bucharest and Moscow.

Katushev, who is responsible for relations with bloc parties, met with Ceausescu on the final day of his visit. According to Bucharest radio, the two men discussed Romanian-Soviet party relations, "some aspects of international life, and problems of mutual interest." One of the chief topics may have been differences over the conditions under which a European Conference of Communist Parties should be held. Katushev may also have raised the matter of the unusually large number of Romanian officials who trooped to Peking last month. In addition, the two are at odds over how to treat the social democratic parties in the West and over Bucharest's continuing courtship of the nonaligned movement.

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Hungary-Romania: The Minority Issue

Budapest's increased efforts to protect the cultural identity of the large Magyar minority in Romania undoubtedly figured prominently in recent bilateral cultural cooperation talks.

Hungarian Politburo member Aczel and his Romanian counterpart--Dumitru Popescu--talked for three days last week, backed by delegations that included cultural and historical specialists. The two men reportedly were slated to meet early this year, but there were no signs that the meeting was held.

The Kadar regime has been trying with renewed energy since 1974 to expand its ties with the one and-a-half to two million Transylvanian Hungarians. These endeavors apparently were spurred by domestic pressures growing out of concern among the Hungarian minority that Bucharest had adopted a more aggressive assimilation policy.

The Hungarian government specifically wants Bucharest to use more imported, Hungarian-language textbooks and to soften what Budapest considers "historical distortions" in Romanian-produced texts. Budapest has also been unsuccessfully trying for several years to open a consulate in Cluj that would handle consular matters for all of Transylvania.

Kadar personally received the Romanian delegation, apparently to impress on Bucharest the seriousness of Hungarian objectives and to show the domestic audience that he is personally involved.

Nonetheless, the Romanians will be slow to respond to Budapest's demands. They are understandably reluctant to expose the Magyar minority to Budapest's influence, and probably hope in the long run to assimilate them.

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Preparations for the 25th Party Congress

Since July 11 there have been no changes in obkom first secretaries [REDACTED]

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We have noted the following announcements of scheduled conferences and congresses:

<u>PARTY CONGRESSES</u>	<u>DATE</u>
CPSU	February 24, 1976
Armenia	January 20, 1976
Belorussia	February 4, 1976
Estonia	January 28, 1976
Kazakh	February 4, 1976
Ukraine	February 10, 1976
Uzbekistan	February 3, 1976
<u>RSFSR Oblast and Kray</u> <u>Party Conferences</u>	
Magadan Oblast	January 15, 1976
Primorye Kray	December 26, 1975
<u>Turkmen Oblast</u> <u>Party Conferences</u>	
Ashkhabad	December 30, 1975
Tashauz	December 19, 1975

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